

HEALTH  
A 22 JUL 50  
C.R.

OTTERY ST. MARY  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

194<sup>9</sup>.

F. N. SIDEBOTHAM

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



## URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OTTERY SAINT MARY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ottery Saint Mary Urban District Council.

I beg to present to you a statement of the Public Health of your District for the year 1949.

### Vital Statistics.

Live Births	---	34.
Still Births	---	0.
Boys	---	11.
Girls	---	23.

The birth rate was the lowest for many years.

There were no illegitimate births.

### Deaths.

In our own district --- 51.

Transferable from other districts 13.

Males	---	32.
Females	---	32.

This was the highest death rate for many years.

Of these deaths :-

5 had reached the age of 90 years and upward.  
19 had reached the age of 80 years and upward.  
41 had reached the age of 70 years and upward.

There was one death of a child under one year.

There were eight deaths from Cancer; none from Tuberculosis; one accidental death; and no case of suicide.

The average age of death was just over 70 years.

### Hospital.

The following details have been given by the Secretary of the Ottery Saint Mary District Cottage Hospital, viz:-

Admissions	---	176.
Discharges	---	159.
Out Patients	---	332.
Out Patients attendance		1123.
Operations	---	116.
Deaths	---	6.

### Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Infant Welfare Centre is open every week except during holiday periods. During this year it was open 48 times.

On the Register there were:- 68 Mothers; 40 Infants; and 39 Toddlers. The attendances were as follows, viz:-

Mothers	-	614.
Infants	-	272.
Toddlers	-	432.

The Centre was not so well attended as in previous years, and I consider that the lower birth rate in the District may be responsible for the falling off in attendance.



## Prevalence and Treatment of Infectious Diseases.

I received the following notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year, viz:-

Measles	112.
Tuberculosis	3.
(1 Surgical : 2 Medical)	
Polio-Myelitis	1.
Scarlet Fever	3.
Whooping Cough	62.
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0.
Dysentery	5.

As will be seen from these figures, there were extensive epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough during the year. The Measles cases were all in the early part of the year, whilst the Whooping Cough was confined to the late Autumn months. Although the epidemics were extensive, the diseases were not of a virulent type and no fatal cases were notified.

I have received no records of Venereal Diseases. The nearest Centre for treatment is at Exeter, and presumably, any cases that occur in this district go to Exeter direct for treatment, and do not come under my notice.

## Water Supply.

1. The supply to the town during 1949 has been satisfactory (a) as to quality, after chlorination, and (b) as to quantity - although on a number of occasions it was necessary to pump from the emergency well.  
The average daily flow during the year was 69,030 gallons. In the outlying districts the supplies are privately owned, except the Public Pumps at the villages of Tipton St. John and Wiggaton, which were satisfactory as to quality and quantity.
2. Samples were taken approximately every two months - every sample of water as going into the supply was found to be satisfactory.
3. The water is relatively hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.
4. No action was taken in respect of any form of contamination.





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29941039>

Water Supply (Continued).

5. Periodical bacteriological examinations were made of the piped supply to the town, and the results obtained from the chlorinated water were quite satisfactory. The unchlorinated water showed evidence of organic pollution.

(The chlorination plant is situated approximately 75 yards from the reservoirs, and the water is chlorinated at this point before entering the reservoirs).

6. No action has been taken during the year with regard to pollution at the source, but the Council are still endeavouring to give all possible support to the formation of an East Devon Water Board, which may give an alternative supply. Further consideration has been given to proposals for an immediate supply to augment the present town water supplies and discussions on this matter have been held with the County Council, and which have now resulted in arrangements being made for an additional borehole.

7. The supply in the built-up area of the district is piped direct to 696 premises with an approximate population of 2,111, this being a little over 50% of the population according to the 1939 census.

Sewerage.

The sewage from the town area gravitates to a small works where it is dealt with by TWO settling tanks and SIX contact beds. The outlying rural areas are dealt with by cesspits with, of course, the exceptions of the Alfington and West Hill Housing Sites where separate sewage filter systems are installed. The district's arrangements are considered satisfactory, and, during the year, no nuisances occurred.

Meat and Other Foods.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. Periodical inspections were carried out at Butchers' Premises; Slaughterhouses; Cafés; Hotel Kitchens; Bakehouses; Ice Cream Retailers' Premises; Mobile Ice Cream Vans, etc.. Carcasses inspections as Ante- and Post-Mortem Examinations are normally made at the Central Abattoir but some pigs were slaughtered locally and 1 carcase was condemned (T.B.).

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) F. N. SIDEBOTHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

